

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (previously presented) A force limiter provided on a belt retractor, said belt retractor comprising a belt spool (1) that is rotatably mounted in a frame (10) and has at least one flange (1a) and a disk (2) that can be non-rotatably blocked on said frame, characterized in that said disk (2) and said flange (1a) of said belt spool (1) are adapted to be coupled by a cutting element (3) which, with a relative rotation between said disk (2) and said flange (1a), comes into a coupling position and cuts material when said relative rotation is continued,

wherein said cutting element (3) is accommodated in a recess (12) of said disk (2) and supported for movement in an axial direction as well as in a circumferential direction, and in that said cutting element has a blade that in said coupling position engages on an end face of said flange (1a) opposite to said blade, and

wherein said flange (1a) has a control pin (5) that transfers said cutting element (3) by means of an inclined plane axially into said coupling position, when said relative rotation between said disk (2) and said flange (1a) occurs.

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Claim 5 (original) The force limiter according to claim 4, characterized in that said control pin (5) is sheared off when said relative rotation continues.

Claim 6 (previously presented) A force limiter provided on a belt retractor, said belt retractor comprising a belt spool (1) that is rotatably mounted in a frame (10) and has at least one flange (1a) and a disk (2) that can be non-rotatably blocked on said frame, characterized in that said disk (2) and said flange (1a) of said belt spool (1) are adapted to be coupled by a cutting element (3) which, with a relative rotation between said disk (2) and said flange (1a), comes into a coupling position and cuts material when said relative rotation is continued, and

wherein a coaxial ring groove (6, 13) is provided on an end face of said flange (1a).

Claim 7 (original) The force limiter according to claim 6, characterized in that said ring groove (6, 13) has a starting section (6a, 13a) into which said blade of said cutting element (3) projects in said coupling position.

Claim 8 (original) The force limiter according to claim 6, characterized in that a radial cutting width of said blade of said cutting element (3) decreases as a relative angle of rotation increases.

Claim 9 (original) The force limiter according to claim 6, characterized in that a radial cutting width of said blade of said cutting element (3) increases as a relative angle of rotation increases.

Claim 10 (original) The force limiter according to claim 6, characterized in that a radial cutting width of said blade of said cutting element (3) remains constant as a relative angle of rotation increases.

Claim 11 (original) The force limiter according to claim 6, characterized in that an axial cutting depth of said blade of said cutting element (3) decreases as a relative angle of rotation increases.

Claim 12 (original) The force limiter according to claim 6, characterized in that an axial cutting depth of said blade of said cutting element (3) increases as a relative angle of rotation increases.

Claim 13 (original) The force limiter according to claim 6, characterized in that an axial cutting depth of said blade of said cutting element (3) remains constant as a relative angle of rotation increases.

Claim 14 (original) The force limiter according to claim 6, characterized in that said belt spool has a stop (7) which, after a cutting procedure on said material that can be caught by said cutting element (3) during said relative rotation, is moved via a pressure spring (8) in an axial direction into a position of engagement with said cutting element (3).

Claim 15 (original) The force limiter according to claim 14, characterized in that said stop (7) has a strength that is sufficiently high to prevent it from being cut by said cutting element (3) during engagement with the latter.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A belt retractor comprising a force limiter, said belt retractor also comprising a belt spool (1) that is rotatably mounted in a frame (10), said belt spool having at least one flange (1a), and a disk (2) that can be non-rotatably blocked on said frame, said disk (2) and said flange (1a) of said belt spool (1) being adapted to be coupled by a cutting element (3) which, upon a relative rotation between said disk (2) and said flange (1a), comes into a coupling position and cuts material when said relative rotation is continued,

wherein said cutting element (3) is accommodated in a recess (12) of said disk (2) and supported for movement in an axial direction as well as in a circumferential direction relative to said disk (2), and in that said cutting element has a blade that in said coupling position engages on an end face of said flange (1a) opposite to said blade, and

wherein said flange (1a) has a control pin (5) that transfers said cutting element (3) by means of said control pin (5) and an inclined plane axially into said coupling position, when said relative rotation between said disk (2) and said flange (1a) occurs.

Claim 17 (new) A force limiter for a belt retractor, the belt retractor comprising a belt spool that has at least one flange and that is mounted in a frame

for rotation about an axis and a disk that can be non-rotatably blocked on the frame, said force limiter comprising a cutting element that can couple the flange and the disk so as to cut material upon relative rotation between the flange and the disk, the cutting element traveling in a ring groove when cutting material.

Claim 18 (new) A force limiter according to claim 17 wherein the cutting element cuts material from the ring groove.

Claim 19 (new) A force limiter according to claim 17 wherein the cutting element is mounted on one of the flange and the disk and the ring groove is provided on the other of the flange and the disk.

Claim 20 (new) A force limiter according to claim 1 wherein the ring groove is provided on an end face of the flange.

Claim 21 (new) A force limiter for a belt retractor, the belt retractor comprising a belt spool that has at least one flange and that is mounted in a frame for rotation about an axis, said force limiter comprising a cutting element that can couple the flange and the frame so as to cut material upon relative rotation between the flange and the frame, the cutting element traveling in a ring groove when cutting material.

Claim 22 (new) A force limiter according to claim 21 wherein the cutting element cuts material from the ring groove.

Claim 23 (new) A force limiter according to claim 21 further comprising a disk that can be non-rotatably blocked on the frame.

Claim 24 (new) A force limiter according to claim 23 wherein the cutting element is mounted on one of the flange and the disk and the ring groove is provided on the other of the flange and the disk.

Claim 25 (new) A force limiter according to claim 24 wherein the ring groove is provided on an end face of the flange.